

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Kathleen Straus, Michigan State Board President, Receives National Honor**

Alexandria, VA—Kathleen Straus, President of the Michigan State Board of Education, is being awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The national award is given annually to a state board of education member in recognition of outstanding service to public education.

"Kathleen Straus is a powerful champion for children, the underserved, and civil rights in public education. She has been a courageous voice in defense of the state board of education and a tenacious fighter for the needs of schoolchildren. We honor Kathleen for making education her life's work in the service to the citizens of Michigan and their public schools," said Brenda Welburn, NASBE Executive Director.

Kathleen Straus is currently serving her sixteenth year as a member of the Michigan State Board and fifth term as Board President. She is running for re-election to a third eight-year term this fall.

Straus was the staff director of the Michigan Senate Education Committee, where she worked closely with Michigan Congressman Dale Kildee when he was in the state legislature. She was the director of governmental relations for the Michigan Association of School Boards, and the Executive Director of People and Responsible Organizations for Detroit, a community-wide coalition of business, labor, and civic groups and schools established to assure that the court-ordered desegregation of the city's schools would be implemented smoothly and peacefully.

The award is being presented at NASBE's national conference in Arlington, Virginia on October 17.

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NASBE, [www.nasbe.org](http://www.nasbe.org), represents America's state and territorial boards of education. Our principal objectives are to strengthen state leadership in education policymaking; advocate equality of access to educational opportunity; promote excellence in the education of all students; and assure responsible lay governance of education.